

Georgia

Information for applicants

Georgia

Georgia is a country where Europe and Asia meet. Covering a total area of 70,000 km², it is roughly the size of Bavaria. More than one quarter of the country's 3.7 million inhabitants live in the region around the capital Tbilisi. Other major cities include Kutaisi, Batumi and Rustavi. Georgia's tiny territory is home to breathtaking landscapes, unspoilt nature and a fascinating range of architecture and lifestyles.

Climate and sights

Covering a very small area, the mountainous region with its many glaciers and peaks above 5,000 metres provides a stark contrast to the lowlands and river plains at sea level and below. The different altitudes of the mountain ranges and marked variation in rainfall create a total of seven climate zones, from the sub-tropical, humid climate of the west to the arid and temperate continental climate of the east.

Georgia is rich in both alluring countryside and exceptional cultural sights. Military campaigns have left lasting traces on the buildings, while numerous ruins testify to magnificent palaces of former times. Georgia's cultural heritage comprises over 4,000 historic monuments and sights from over two millennia. The main sights include the cave dwellings of Vardzia and Uplistsikhe, the David Gareja monastery complex, the ancient city of Mtskheta, and Ushguli, the highest village in Europe.

Medical care

Health care is now fully privatised and everyday medical treatment can be provided to a good standard locally. More complex cases should be evaluated and treated further in Germany, while individuals requiring emergency attention must be evacuated. Fine particulate air pollution exceeds permissible European limits in some districts of Tbilisi. The local country office will advise on suitable protective measures.

Accommodation and quality of life

Residential rents in Tbilisi are comparable to those in Germany and vary depending on location, features, etc.

Foreigners will not have difficulty finding suitable accommodation in the capital. Estate agents post numerous offers online in English and the GIZ country office or responsible project will be pleased to assist you in your search.

Shops and services

Georgia offers an excellent range of shops and services. Fresh bread, cheese, fruit and vegetables are available to buy from small road-side stalls. The products are often grown locally and are comparatively cheap. It is best to buy meat and hygiene products from one of the many supermarkets. Imported products are available in Tbilisi, though they are slightly more expensive than in Germany. Georgia is also famed for its low-priced, high-quality wine. Georgian cuisine is varied and includes many vegetarian dishes.

Accompanying partners and children

Accompanying partners have excellent prospects of finding and taking up employment in Georgia. It is easy to be hired if you have a residence permit, with no need for a separate work permit. Only when it comes to taxation do unanswered questions remain. Income tax (flat rate of 20%) is typically deducted directly by the employer in Georgia. Setting up as self-employed is straightforward with a residence permit. The Georgian tax office generally issues the relevant documents in good time. It is necessary to review each individual case to determine how the accompanying partner's job will affect the tax liability of the GIZ staff member in Germany.

Schools and childcare: Tbilisi has several international schools, with English as the primary language of instruction, though there is some French and German provision, the latter at the (private) German International School in the capital. Children at the school are taught by German and Georgian teachers and receive an education that is recognised in Germany. The school has a kindergarten, a pre-school, a primary school and provision up to lower secondary level, with one additional school year being added every year.

Find out more

<https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/ausussenpolitik/laenderinformationen/georgien-node>

<https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/359.html>

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